

Appln No. 10/791,716
Amdt. Dated March 10, 2005
Response to Office Action of January 26, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of January 26, 2005 the Applicant submits the accompanying Amendment to the specification and claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the present application. In the Amendment:

page 1 of the specification is amended at the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section to insert --, now U.S. Patent No. 6,712,924, which is a continuation application of United States application no. 09/721,856 filed 11/25/2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,530,339--, after "04/22/2002" as suggested by the Examiner;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the sheets to be bound are conveyed to the support structure from an adhesive application station to form a stack on the floor and that the binding member(s) is operated to bear against the stack so as to adhere the sheets together to form a bound document. Claim 1 is also amended to incorporate means for driving the floor away from the binding member(s) as each subsequent sheet is conveyed to the support structure so that a plurality of bound documents can be formed by repeated operation of the binding member(s) and can be accommodated on the floor. Support for these amendments can be found at page 10, line 26-page 12, line 23 of the present specification;

claims 2 and 3 are cancelled in conformance with the amendment to claim 1; and
claims 4-6 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Priority

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to page 1 addresses the Examiner's concerns regarding the benefit claim of the present application to the prior applications, USSNs 10/126,676 and 09/721,856.

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35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Novelty

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and 4 and 5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Kaneko (JP 1-271368), for at least the following reasons.

The binding mechanism of the claimed invention is used to bind documents from sheets which are conveyed from an adhesive application station A. The adhesive application station A applies adhesive to a leading edge of the sheets. Semicircular disks 34 (the claimed binding members) of binding press 20 press this leading edge of the sheets to create the bound documents or volumes 24. Tray 18 of the binding press 20 has a floor of adjustable height so that it can be driven downwardly as each sheet 11 is fed into the tray 18.

This height adjustability ensures that the binding press 20 can be effectively and efficiently used in conjunction with the high speed printing and adhesive application stations P and A of the present invention, because multiple bound volumes 24 can be produced and stacked one upon another with the upper-most volumes being progressively compressed by repeated applications of the binding members (see page 1, lines 16-20; page 10, line 26-page 12, line 23 and Figs. 17 and 18 of the present application). Amended independent claim 1 recites this production and accommodation of multiple bound documents.

On the other hand, as described in the abstract of Kaneko once a stacked copy group has been pressed by pressing member 12 of stacker 8 to form a bound book, the book is discharged from the stacker 8. This is done by operation of the pivot assembly 10-12 of Fig. 2 which tilts the floor of the stacker 8 such that the bound book is discharged to tray 9. It is noted that Fig. 3 which illustrates the pressing member 12 is a cross-sectional view of Fig. 2 along line III-III.

Thus, Kaneko does not incorporate means for driving the stacker 8 floor away from the binding member(s) 12 as each subsequent sheet is conveyed to the stacker 8 so that a plurality of bound books can be formed by repeated operation of the binding member(s) 12 and can be accommodated on the floor. As such, high speed operation is not supported by the stacker and pressing member arrangement of Kaneko. This is because, after each bound

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book has been produced it must be discharged before the sheets for the next book can be received. This therefore creates a delay in the binding process of Kaneko.

Non-Obviousness

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pivot assembly 10-12 of Fig. 2 of Kaneko to incorporate the driving means of the claimed invention. This is because Kaneko does not address the problem of providing high speed operation of the stacker and binding member arrangement. Further, Kaneko does not teach or suggest the presently claimed solution of incorporating means for driving the stacker away from the binding member(s).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 4-6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Kaneko.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 6 is not taught or suggested by Kaneko in view Johnson (USP 2,650,109), for at least the following reasons.

Johnson does not make up for the above-described deficiencies in Kaneko. This is because Johnson merely discloses an apparatus for aligning and sorting sheets of paper. There is no disclosure in Johnson as to an apparatus which can produce and accommodate multiple bound documents. Thus, Johnson does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pivot assembly 10-12 of Fig. 2 of Kaneko to incorporate the driving means of the claimed invention.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 4-6 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Kaneko or Johnson either taken alone or in combination.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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